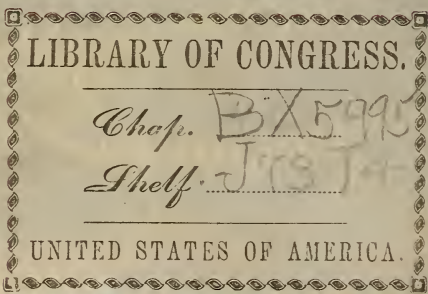


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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

















**THE ANSWER**  
**OF**  
**GEORGE THOMAS,**  
**TO**  
**THE ATTACKS**

**OF**  
**THE REV. NORRIS M. JONES.**

116<sup>2</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_  
“And for a mantle, broad and large,  
He wrapt him in Religion!”  
\_\_\_\_\_

ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD. (17)

\_\_\_\_\_  
1835.

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

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I WILL now redeem a pledge, which I made a short time since when noticing a pamphlet, issued by the Rev. Norris M. Jones. And I am sure, that you will not require any apology for my being obtruded before you, when you perceive, that I originally sought to avoid this necessity. To be thus constrained by the contumacious perseverance of an adversary, would at all times be to me a source of extreme regret ; but it is peculiarly so, when he professes to be a minister of the gospel.

I appear before you now in self-defence ; in the capacity of a farmer, claiming no privileges but those of a free-man, no consideration, but such as may be awarded to purity of purpose and uprightness of conduct. I boast not, as does the Rev. Norris M. Jones, of wealth on a canal, or elsewhere ; nor as he, or some proud peer, of " a long line of honored ancestors : " it was not thus that the Apostles sought to sustain their cause. And Satan's high station availed him nought : he fell ; and in the garden of Eden, was a reptile, and brought woe therein, before the eyes of our first parents were fully opened.

That I have in some respects a self-approving conscience, I am willing to acknowledge. I feel a pleasure in the reflection, that I have never attempted to injure a correct and pious minister of the gospel ; that I have never slandered nor insulted an innocent female ; that I have never endeavoured to ruin the fortune and character of any individual ; that I have never attempted to make nor

to widen a breach between neighbours ; that I have never attempted to deceive by letters, circuitously sent or anonymously written ; and in that I have always endeavoured to do unto others as I would they should do unto me. If this be pride, I have it in abundance ; and it raises me, in my own estimation, not above the level of the poorest man in society of upright principles, but to an immeasurable height above him, who, by doing otherwise, sinks into deep degradation.

The occurrences that have resulted from the coming of the Rev. Norris M. Jones to this county, I greatly lament. For the sake of religion, for the peace of society ; on account of the feelings of the Rev. Clergy, to whom the respect and gratitude of all are due, I sincerely deplore them. But, as amongst the Apostles, there was a Judas Iscariot ; so, among the Rev. Clergy, there is a Norris M. Jones.

Unwilling as I am to trace or even look upon the hideous lineaments of his character, it is an alternative which I cannot avoid ; and I will presently commence with them in the order in which they have presented themselves since his introduction among us ; but must first make a slight review of the correspondence between us, and especially of the letter which he has published, bearing date after I informed him, that no communication between us should ever again exist.

As those letters have been brought by him before the public, it will be unnecessary for me to have them reprinted. From them it will appear that his first letter to me was returned without comment ; that he addressed to me a second letter, wherein he says : “ Were my situation in life other than it is, I should not have troubled

you in this manner on the subject;" and further, that "a clergyman's hands are tied:" which language implies, that he would inflict upon me personal chastisement or challenge me to mortal combat, were he not restrained by ministerial shackles. And as I believed, that to one who entertained such sentiments, the badges of office could be of no spiritual advantage, I replied, that as his cloak seemed to be of but little service to him at that time, he could easily cast it aside.

In the same letter he remarks, that "a clergyman is placed on the same footing with a lady; and that the same opinion is entertained by every high-minded man of him who would traduce or insult the former, as of him who would traduce or insult the latter. In both cases, the traducer escapes, merely from the fact of the inability of the parties injured to punish him." The only correct version of this language, it seemed to me, was, that a clergyman's cloak is to protect him from censure, because he cannot call to account the man, who sees cause for reproof. Yet, when in my reply I remarked, that it was difficult for an honorable man to protect himself, properly, from the malice of a being, who studies to insult, while he meanly claims the privileges and impunity of a female, and seeks to shelter himself under a vestment, which has been, perhaps, too kindly conferred on him; he denies, that he ever claimed any such protection or impunity, or that any such sentiment is contained in his letter.

He asserts, that men will do at one time what they will not do at another; or in other language, that they will make a statement at one time, which they will deny at another. Such an opinion may be true, as regards men

destitute of principle; but it has ever been my belief, that a high-minded, honorable man will not state a fact at one time, which he will not reassert at all times: and an opposite sentiment from a minister of the gospel, is not well calculated to strengthen our confidence in him as a man or a divine.

In one of his letters Mr. Jones proposed to submit *the matter of dispute* between us to the decision of three gentlemen, whom he named; and affected to think, that *this* was simply his denial of a statement, made by me of a conversation that had occurred between us some time before. But as that was not the only cause of my unfavourable opinion of him; and as there were many charges against him, I supposed, that the most proper course for him, would be to submit his character to a court of enquiry. I had not the least objection to the three gentlemen, whom he named; but, as I believed that they would not consent to sit as a court of enquiry, in such a case; and as Mr. Jones had been employed in the "All Faith" parish, and wished again to obtain the Rectorship thereof, I regarded the vestry of that parish as the most convenient and proper tribunal to try him; and therefore made that proposition to him, but with a proviso, that he should not attempt to recover in *a civil action* damages for any thing, that might be there advanced against him: which stipulation I considered necessary, as he had brought suit against Mr. Slye, for the purpose of silencing him and others. This proposition he rejected, and pronounced it unreasonable; because, he said, it would be giving a "carte blanche to every unprincipled man in the county, to utter whatever lies his conscience would allow him to swear to." Such a reproach upon the integrity and hon-



our of the citizens of our county ought to have been withheld by Mr. Jones. It is true, that many of them are poor and unlettered; but they are generally as honest, industrious, and mindful of the truth as the citizens of any other part of the country. Besides, if Mr. Jones had acceded to my proposition, and had been acquitted of the charges preferred against him, he might have again become the Rector of the parish: and on the other hand, had he been convicted by the vestry, he could have appealed to a higher tribunal; he could have had a specification of charges, which he could have laid before the standing committee. But, he wished, it would seem to force from *me* a specification of them by letter, and as I did not think it incumbent upon me to furnish them, I did not choose to gratify him. Towards him, either tribunal was impartial; and if persons could have been procured to swear away the character of a minister of the Gospel before the vestry, surely the same could have been procured to swear it away before the Standing Committee. Then why has he used so much cunning and perseverance in forcing his letters upon me?

The correctness of my interpretation of his threat *to publish*, he denies and criticises. Without any instructions from him in lexicography, every man of common sense can, from the tenor of his letter, place a proper construction on the clause alluded to. The clause is this: "Your conduct shall be published wherever you or I are known." It is not to be presumed, that he intended to go to Harvard College, from which he was *dismissed*; nor to Maine, where, perhaps, he is quite as well known as he now is here; nor yet to Scotland, where I do not doubt that some old acquaintance would be glad to recognise

him. It is not to be presumed, that he intended to go wherever he or I were known, for the purpose of making oral, or exhibiting written statements. Moreover, my interpretation is further corroborated by the fact, that in the last letter which he published, he admits, that he had “publicly expressed on various occasions a resolution to print;” and, that, to his certain knowledge, I was acquainted with his having thus expressed himself two months before its date. And as he threatened in his letter to *publish*, and soon afterwards expressed to some of his friends a determination to *print*, these circumstances abundantly prove, that he wilfully denies the plain import of his own language.

Upon his remark, that Mrs. Jones is insulted by my professions of friendship for her in my last letter to him, I will observe, that I do not doubt, that this amiable lady feels the unpleasantness of her situation, and endeavours to reconcile herself to it with the most laudable resignation: and further, that he cannot believe, that his conduct is sanctioned by her in heart, whatever may be her prudent course with regard to it: and as to the charge of my having outraged her feelings, it is fully falsified by circumstances—for if *his* hands be tied, she has honourable, high-minded brothers, who would not brook an insult offered to a sister; and who, if occasion should ever require them to protect her against him or any one else, would not be found wanting in the discharge of their duty. By his intimating that I subscribed but ten dollars a year for his support, he evinces a most unwarrantable disregard of truth, and jeopardds his claims to veracity. He might easily have ascertained, that such was not the fact. (See Appendix, No. 15, certificate of Geo. G. Ashcom.) And, had he not been disposed to produce erroneous

impressions on the mind of the public, he would not have omitted to inform them, that I was one of the largest contributors to the church in King and Queen parish, wherein I resided the greater part of my time.

Why, but for effect, has he alluded to his long line of "honoured ancestors, extending back over two centuries; men, who, during the whole of that period, have sustained the first standing in society; men of education, wealth and influence?" I had never attempted to detract a mite from the glory and merit of his ancestors: I knew them not. They may be a galaxy of worthies; but their splendour can never be reflected by their degenerate descendant, nor can it dissipate his guilt.

He has complained, "that I make him an offender for a word." It will be seen, that it is not for a word, but for many base transactions, that I consider him a disgrace to the human race, and deem him unworthy to perform the sacred functions of a minister of the gospel.

He announces, that I am the cause of the doors of "All Faith" church being closed; at the same time, that he acknowledges, that I endeavoured to procure a minister in that parish. He says also, that "the church in this county is bleeding at every pore." It is, indeed, bleeding; but the only wound it has received, was inflicted by himself; and that would 'ere now have been healed, had it not been for his repeated offences.

The Rev. Mr. Mitchel is a gentleman, of whom every member of the parish has a most exalted opinion, as a man and divine; and upon application being made to him, he expressed a willingness to undertake the Rectorship thereof, provided that no unforeseen objections should occur to his mind. The vestry obtained a subscription of

the amount necessary for his salary; but whilst this was being done, Mr. Norris M. Jones, in a conversation with Mr. Mitchell, presented his own desires and expectations as an obstacle to Mr. Mitchell's acceptance: Thus it is seen, that Mr. Jones has thrown against me an imputation which recoils upon himself. (See Appendix No. 10, letter of Mr. Mitchell.)

And not being permitted to officiate in any church in this parish, he has the consummate audacity to undertake to preach to me by letter: but, as well might the serpentine movements of Satan be mistaken for the direct course of an Angel, as the hypocrisy of Norris M. Jones for the true piety of a minister of the gospel.

He reminds me of my state of health: But as to this, I can reply, that I fear not the machinations of any man.

Having thus reviewed, as briefly as possible, the pamphlet which he has published, I will now revert to his unfortunate arrival among us. He is, I believe, a native of Pennsylvania, and was introduced to the vestry of All Faith parish, in this county, by a highly respectable clergyman of Baltimore. The vestry employed him as their Rector; and we received him with the hospitality due to a stranger; and the respect, to which his official station seemed to entitle him. And our pleasure from the selection by the vestry was increasing, before his real character began to develope itself. But many of us, even then, were unwilling to consider him corrupt; and were disposed to attribute to the mind, and not to the heart, such improprieties as were at first revealed. As he had no family he was taken into the house of Mr. George Slye as a boarder. He expressed much satisfaction and contentment at his situation, though he was evidently at times looking around for a lady, who, by accepting him as a

husband, might furnish him with a home, which he could consider his own. It was, perhaps, partly with that view, and from an erroneous estimate of the disposition of the female sex in this part of the country, that he boasted of wealth, which no one believed him to possess; at a time too, when he was endeavouring to borrow money. Whether the former was his chief object, or whether he was in hopes of being able to deceive some one, who had the means of lending, I cannot say; but he asserted, that he had an estate on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which was worth at that time twenty thousand dollars; and which, he expected, in a few years would yield him fifteen thousand per annum. (See Appendix, No. 1, Certificate of John T. Hawkins—and No. 2, Letter of James E. Kilgour.)

There had been a slight disagreement between Doct. Locke and Mr. M——, two very respectable gentlemen of All-Faith parish. And one would suppose, that it ought to have been the wish of Mr. Jones, as their Rector, to close the breach between them; but such was not the fact. At a wedding in the neighbourhood, where he was himself employed to officiate, he took Mr. M—— out and informed him, that Dr. Locke had told him, that he, Mr. M——, had seduced the daughter of Mr. W——, formerly a respectable resident of Charlotte-Hall. The indignation of Mr. M. was consequently much excited, and he expressed a determination to seek immediate redress; upon which Mr. Jones endeavoured to dissuade him, saying, “that such a course would unavoidably involve him, his friend, the Rector of his parish, in his personal quarrels.”

And this argument had the effect of quieting Mr. M—— for the time being; and he and Mr. Jones remained there,



whilst the company enjoyed themselves in conversation and dancing. On such an occasion did this *persecuted man, this upright divine*, choose to discharge the venom of his tongue. (See Appendix, No. 3, Letter of J. M.—.)

And a long time afterwards, when I was riding with Mr. Jones from All Faith Church to my house, he observed to me, that he had been told by a gentleman once a vestryman of All Faith parish, then dead, that he had seen a letter, written to a gentleman once the Rector of All Faith parish, who was also dead, cautioning the latter against a certain man of the neighbourhood, who had ruined the daughter of the writer of said letter—and that he, Mr. Jones, believed the letter writer was a Mr. W——, formerly of Charlotte Hall—mentioning the name in full, and the former occupation of the individual. After reflecting for a while, I enquired of him, whether the Rev. Neale H. Shaw was the gentleman who received the letter, and the late Joshua Estep the vestryman alluded to; and he replied in the affirmative. (See Appendix, No. 4, certificate of vestry of “All Faith” parish.)

It is now necessary for me to notice a circumstance the occurrence of which may have led to important results. During the stay of Mr. Norris M. Jones at Mr Slye’s, Mr. Slye at one time had succeeded in collecting for a particular purpose, several hundred dollars, which he kept in a place considered very secure. About this period Mr. Slye received an anonymous letter, handed him by Mr. Jones, which Mr. Jones said came from the post-office at Charlotte Hall in an envelope, directed to himself from the Great Mill. This letter, dated St. Inigoes, purported to be from “A Friend,” inviting Mr. Slye to come to the Great Mill on a certain day on bu-



siness, in which the writer assured him, that he, Mr. Slye, was deeply interested. Mr. Slye, being of an artless, unsuspecting disposition, acceded to the invitation, and went to the Great Mill, a distance of thirty miles from home. He waited there for several days; but the author of the letter did not make his appearance. At his return Mr. Jones interrogated him concerning the events of his journey. Mr. Slye gave him the information requested; and Mr. Jones remarked, that he would receive another letter shortly from the same person. And accordingly the prediction was verified, and a similar letter, but more pressing in its invitation, was handed him by Mr. Jones, who made the same statement as before concerning the envelope and post-mark. Mr. Slye repeated his journey, and was again a dupe. Upon enquiry at the Great Mill he ascertained, that no such letter had been mailed at that office; and he was also informed by the post-master at Charlotte Hall, that no such letter had been received there by mail, nor, with his knowledge, presented or sent to Mr. Jones. A few weeks after Mr. Slye's return, Mr. Jones expressed a wish for some cider. This was kept in a locked room on the second floor of the dwelling, in which room was a portable writing desk, in which Mr. Slye had deposited his money. A small servant girl was directed to draw the cider, and Mr. Jones proposed to go with her. Shortly after they came down with the cider, the barrel was discovered to be leaking, and *Mr. Jones returned alone* for the purpose of stopping it. The next morning Mr. Jones left home. On that day, during the absence of Mr. Jones, the desk was brought by a small boy from the garden, broken open and rifled of the money. After some consultation with

Mr. Jones on his getting home, it was determined that the money must have been taken by one of Mr. Slye's house servants, and that she ought to be sold. Mr. Slye succeeded in disposing of her, and the amount of the proceeds of the sale was by the recommendation of Mr. Jones taken into his, Jones', custody. Some time afterwards Mr. Jones went to the Patuxent and returned. In a few minutes after his return he gave Mr. Slye the unpleasant intelligence, that the money, which he had entrusted to him, had also been stolen, and from a book in an open book-case, into which he had put it. Mr. Slye was considerably disturbed. Mr. Jones told him, that if he would say nothing about the last occurrence, he would give him his note for the amount of the two sums he had lost. I do not know, that Mr. Slye ever intimated a suspicion, that Mr. Jones was the thief; but afterwards, he refused to subscribe to him as the minister of the parish. (See Appendix, No. 4, Letter of George Slye—No. 6, Certificate of post-master at Great Mill—No. 7, certificate of post-master at Charlotte Hall.)

The above occurrences became known to a few persons—and, as Mr. Jones had been residing with Mr. Slye, it was desirable to some of the vestry, that the ground of Mr. Slye's refusal should be ascertained.—When called on by one or two of them in their private capacity, he declined giving a satisfactory reply, but still persisted in refusing to subscribe. Some of Mr. Jones' improprieties of conduct began now to be publicly talked of; and, as it was believed by the vestry, that Mr. Slye must be in possession of some important knowledge concerning him, they officially requested him to furnish the information. Mr. Slye appeared before them and addu-

ced the charge of drunkenness. At this meeting, which was held particularly for the purpose of enquiring into certain things, affecting the character of Mr. Jones, one of the vestry, who had heard of the statement made by Mr. Jones to Mr. M—— at the wedding above mentioned, interrogated Dr. Locke as to the truth of the statement. Dr. Locke, then on oath, promptly denied having made it. On the next day Mr. Jones attended in compliance with a request from the vestry, sent him the preceding evening; and on being informed of Dr. Locke's denial, he reiterated the charge, and said he was willing to swear to it. I had, myself, before this time, resided during the winter on one of the extreme borders of All-Faith parish, and during the summer in a different parish; and few of the rumours concerning Mr. Norris M. Jones had reached my ears. But shortly after the meeting above referred to, I was at the house of a friend in the neighborhood, in company with four of the vestrymen, and received intelligence of what had transpired at the meeting. Mr. Jones' conduct excited in my mind great astonishment. My impressions concerning him I could not conceal; and, feeling an interest in All Faith parish, and the cause of religion, I freely expressed them. I also made known my determination not again to subscribe to him as Rector. I then, for the first time, related the conversation which had occurred between Mr. Jones and myself, in which he alluded to the alledged seduction of Miss W——, as above mentioned. (See Appendix, No. 8, Certificate of Messrs. A., H., K. and S.) These circumstances having become known, and Mr. Jones finding himself in difficulties, he called on me afterwards at All Faith church, and after endeavouring to excite in me

charitable feelings towards himself, he denied my statement of the conversation. I gave him to understand, that my opinion of him had been formed some time before, and that I had commented freely on his conduct before some of his vestry. (For these comments see Appendix, No. 8, Certificate of J. T. H., G. G. A., J. E. K. and J. H. S.)

Before this interview at "All Faith" church, the veil had been lifted from many of his acts. It was known that at a certain convention he had endeavoured to depreciate the Rev. Mr. Mithell, one of our most worthy, upright and pious ministers of the gospel, for the purpose of supplying the place he held in the Standing Committee by the appointment of his brother, Clement Jones, who resided in this county at the time; and although he partially succeeded in his designs, he was doomed to encounter disappointment: for he failed to remove Mr. Mitchell, or to have his brother elected. The Rev. Mr. Mitchell, among native Marylanders, could not be injured. But Mr. Jones felt his teeth a little blunted by the file and became chagrined. He determined to make another attempt to infix his fangs, but they snapped in the effort. Who that knows not Norris M. Jones, could believe, that he charged this most excellent divine with having entered with a false key the closet of Mr. Clement Jones, and with having read the papers and stolen the wine which were kept therein. Such a charge was, however, privately brought, and should consign to perpetual ignominy the base slanderer by whom it was preferred.—(See Appendix, No. 5, Letter of Mr. George Slye.)—And as to other attempts of this *high born saint* to injure the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, I will merely refer you to the certificates of Major Hawkins and the Rev. Mr. Laird.



(See Appendix, No. 1, Certificate of John T. Hawkins, and No. 9, Certificate of Rev. F. H. L. Laird.) The very act that he imputes to the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, as having occurred in Baltimore, was one which he himself, alone, had committed. It may be also seen by a reference to the certificate of the Rev. Mr. Laird, (See Appendix, No. 9,) that he inconsiderately vaunted before his marriage, that he was about to achieve a glorious victory over the relatives of his intended wife. From the same certificate it will appear, that whilst he and the Rev. Mr. Laird were together at a private house in this county, he informed Mr. Laird that he had seen a letter from Mr. W——, in which he had employed language against Mr. M——, that would have been sufficiently severe, if Mr. M—— had ruined both the wife and daughter of the writer of it; and, that he, Mr. Jones, expressed his belief, that Mr. M—— had seduced the daughter. This conduct of Mr. Jones' happened after he had read the letter to which he alluded, and after having acknowledged to the gentleman, who at his request had given him a personal view of it, that it contained nothing from which such an inference could be drawn. (See Appendix, No. 11, Certificate of Dr. Joseph F. Shaw.) Fortunately that letter is yet in existence, and contains nothing implicating the moral character of any one. Thus it appears that at one time he gives Dr. Locke as the author of the above slander; at another, Mr. Joshua Estep, and, at length, incurs the sole responsibility himself. Mr. M—— is known to be a most correct, intelligent and amiable man. Mr. Jones expressed to him at the wedding before referred to, a belief of his innocence; he admitted to me at our last

interview at All Faith church, that he had ascertained that the charge was groundless ; and, yet, he persevered in his fiend-like efforts to destroy the character and happiness of Mr. M. His illiberal, unjust and over bearing conduct towards Dr. Charles Briscoe, one of our most estimable citizens, the cousin of Mrs. Jones, stands too in bold relief. (See Appendix, No. 12, Letter of Norris M. Jones to Dr. Briscoe—and No. 13, Letter of Dr. Briscoe to Geo. Thomas.) Further evidence of the falsehood and hypocrisy of Norris M. Jones, and his destitution of principle, will be found in other letters and certificates contained in the Appendix.

When such evidence became known to me, I could no longer countenance Mr. Jones ! And I amongst others, became unwilling that he should be employed as Rector in the parish, as rumours increased upon us like the gathering of a storm. Mr. Jones at length became enraged, and I have been one, against whom he has been most anxious to wreak his vengeance. He wrote me a letter, which I returned to him without comment—for I wished to have no communication with him, and had no desire concerning him, except that he might not interfere with me, nor All Faith parish, of which he had ceased to be Rector. With respect to the letters received by Mr. Slye, I have not suggested, nor do I now say, that Mr. Jones was the author of them ; but it will be seen by his correspondence with me, that he can be and is guilty of tricks in writing. I received from him a second letter, dated Savona, his present place of residence, and not mailed at Chaptico, his nearest post-office, and within a mile of his house, but at Leonardtown, which is fifteen



miles distant. This letter I replied to, and he rejoined. In his rejoinder he threatened to publish me, and I, of course, for the time, proceeded no further. Three months passed over, and no publication appeared; but instead of it, I received from him another letter, mailed at Newport. I then wrote to him and concluded by saying, that no farther communication from him would be received. Notwithstanding this, there was afterwards brought from the Chaptico post-office, a package directed to me in Norris M. Jones' hand writing, not mailed, but marked 5 oz., 2 dollars. The mailing of those letters, and the marking of that package, and his own acknowledgment in his pamphlet evidently show, that, although I have not received an anonymous letter from him, he can descend to tricks; and it is not known to what extremes he is capable of going.

Many things concerning him I here pass over; but I must now advert to another important circumstance concerning him. His conduct to the late Rev. Neale H. Shaw, would alone have been sufficient to have deprived him of the rectorship of All-Faith parish, had it have been generally known. That venerable old gentleman, with an irreproachable character, had toiled from early manhood in the service of the community. At an advanced age he retired, feeble and infirm, into the solitude of his family. Being, however, the only clergyman in the parish with full orders, he occasionally exerted his little remaining strength to administer consolation at the bed of a dying friend. From the performance of this office, Mr. Norris M. Jones, who was at that time but a deacon, most unaccountably sent him an injunction to desist. (See Appendix, No. 14,—Letter of Dr. Joseph F.

Shaw.) At another period, when this Rev. old gentleman was borne down by sickness and pain, and was believed by all to be lingering but for a while on the brink of the grave, Mr. Norris M. Jones entered his house—Was it to dry the tears of a weeping family, or to soothe the feelings of a departing minister of the gospel? Dr. Shaw's letter in the Appendix informs us that such was not his object; but that, without the slightest plausible pretext, he most grossly insulted the old gentleman and his family. Are we to be silent about such conduct?—Are we to believe, with Mr. Norris M. Jones in his famous slander sermon, that the scribes and pharisees calumniated the woman, whom they brought before our Saviour, (St. John, viii. 4.) because the Saviour indirectly informed them, that the law of Moses was not to be put in force against her? Are we to close our eyes, our ears, our lips, with regard to such things, for fear of an action of slander being brought against us? No! God forbid! For the good of society, for the sake of virtue, morality and religion—again we exclaim, God forbid!—But, notwithstanding all his crimes, we willingly say to this “chief of sinners,” “Go and sin no more.” (St. Jno. viii. 11.)

I have now performed a most unpleasant task: I have shown, that Mr. Norris M. Jones' denial of a conversation, which occurred between him and myself, was not the first nor the sole cause of my objections to him; that our difference did not proceed from a mere word; that it was commenced by him; that I endeavored to avoid it; that by perseverance he forced his letters upon me; and, that, in self-defence, I have been compelled at length to adopt my present course.

GEORGE THOMAS.

## APPENDIX.

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[No. 1.]

*Certificate of John T. Hawkins, Esq.*

I do hereby certify, that the Rev. Norris M. Jones told me a short time after he located himself in All-Faith Parish as Rector, that he owned land binding on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which at that time was worth *twenty thousand dollars*—and at the same time, or not long after, he remarked to me, that money was not his object in preaching, for he was able to live without it. That he *applied to me twice to borrow money*; first, a short time after he settled in the Parish, and again a short time after Mr. George Slye lost money out of his house, informing me, he wanted it to pay a debt he owed Mr. Slye, as he, Mr. Slye, was in want, in consequence of a loss he had lately met with. I do further certify, that at a certain time, when on a visit with the said Rev Mr. Jones to Dr. Walter Briscoe, he used language to me greatly to the disparagement of the Rev. Mr. Mitchell.

Given under my hand this 4th January, 1835.

JOHN T. HAWKINS.

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[No. 2.]

*Letter of James E. Kilgour.*

January 23, 1835.

*Dear Sir,*—I received yours of the 20th instant, and cheerfully comply with your request. I heard the Rev. N. M. Jones shortly after he became Rector of All-Faith Parish, *speak of*

*his wealth*, which consisted of a farm on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which he expected would yield him in a few years, *an annual revenue of fifteen thousand dollars.*

I am, sir, your ob't servant,

JAMES E. KILGOUR.

To GEO. THOMAS, Esq.

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[No. 3.]

*Letter of Mr. J—— M——.*

CHARLOTTE HALL, Feb. 21, 1835.

*Dear Sir*—You have requested my answer to the following interrogatories, viz: 1st, Was Norris M. Jones in the habit of communicating things to myself and family, as coming from the late Dr. Locke and family—and do I know or have I reason to believe that he would directly ride to Dr. Locke's and tell him and family, all he had drawn from me and my family, by his exciting tales? Also, whether I believe that the misunderstanding which existed between myself and Dr. Locke would not have subsided and our families have lived on terms of social intercourse, had it not been for the insidious and hypocritical course of N. M. Jones.

2d. "Will I inform you when it was N. M. Jones told me that Dr. Locke had said to him that I, Mr. J. M., had seduced Miss W——, and the remarks he made touching said slander; what opinion he expressed of Dr. Locke at the time, and whether he was, at the time, on terms of social intercourse with Dr. Locke and Family?" In reply to your first interrogatory, I state, that the Rev. Mr. Jones was a frequent and welcome visiter in my family, during his residence in All-Faith Parish; that he was always received with cheerfulness and entertained with cordiality. My intercourse with him was of the most unreserved and confidential character. I esteemed him as my *friend*, as one with whom I might converse on my own *personal and do-*

estic affairs, without restraint and without disguise. A misunderstanding existed at this time between the late Dr. Locke and myself. Mr. Jones was intimate in both families, and has frequently represented Dr. Locke to me as my uncompromising enemy, as disposed on all occasions to injure me, and as particularly anxious, by exhibiting me in an odious aspect, to induce him, Mr. Jones, to discontinue his visits to my family. These representations would naturally excite indignant feeling, and I have doubtless, on such occasions, retaliated in terms of excessive and even unjustifiable severity. I did not however for a moment suppose, nor did I know, until several months had elapsed, that every word thus spoken in confidence, was to be conveyed with the least possible delay, to the adverse party. But such, I have been since assured by Dr. Locke himself, was the constant practice of the Rev. gentleman. Whether this practice became him as a *herald of the gospel of peace and reconciliation*, and whether it was calculated to allay unkind feeling or to perpetuate existing animosity between the two families, you are perfectly competent to decide.

The communication alluded to in your second interrogatory was made to me in the year 1830 or 1831, by the Rev. Mr. Jones. After having stated what he had heard, and given Dr. Locke as his author, he avowed his entire and unqualified disbelief of the slander, stated that he would not believe Dr. Locke on his oath, and that he had mentioned the charge made by him, not for the purpose of disquieting me, nor because he believed me capable of perpetrating so flagrant a crime; but from *pure friendship*, that I might be on my guard against the secret machinations of a malevolent and vindictive foe. If I had heretofore entertained any doubt of the extent of Dr. Locke's hostility to me, I could now doubt no longer. I announced my determination of withdrawing immediately from the scene of festivity, where we then were, and of taking instant mea-



asures for the obtainment of redress from my reputed calumniator. Mr. Jones earnestly dissuaded me from such a course, reiterated his conviction of the falsity of the slanderous allegation, and further said that by adopting the meditated plan, I should unavoidably involve him, my *friend*, the *Rector of my Parish*, in my personal quarrels. This argument had its due weight in influencing my subsequent course in relation to Dr. Locke for the time, and having afterwards taken the advice of two legal friends on the subject, I determined to forgive, and if possible to forget, the cruel malignity of the assault which he was represented to have made upon my character. The same degree of intimacy continued between the Rev. Mr. Jones and myself, for many months after the above communication was made, and my confidence in the sincerity of his friendship was unabated, until I was informed that Dr. Locke had declared, under the imposing solemnity of an oath, that so far from having been the author of the alleged communication to Mr. Jones, he, the Rev. N. M. Jones, had communicated it to him. Mr. Jones had at no time intimated to me that he had derived his information from any other source, save Dr. Locke; I was therefore greatly surprised on hearing that he had, without your solicitation, given to you the names of two other gentlemen as the authors of the calumny, viz : the late Rev. venerable and respected Neale H. Shaw, and an esteemed, valued, and amiable friend, the late Joshua Estep, Esq., between whom and myself, from the commencement of my acquaintance with him, to the hour of his death, the most cordial and friendly intercourse had subsisted. I could not call upon either of the last named gentlemen to confirm or refute what was alleged of them, for they had both passed from this vale of vicissitude and sorrow, and entered, I trust, upon those joys which are permanent and unalloyed.

Notwithstanding the Rev. gentleman's most unhesitating assurance to yourself and to me that he believed the above



charge to be utterly false and malicious, yet he did, at no very distant period, say to my personal and highly valued friend, the Rev. F. H. L. Laird, *that he did believe me guilty of the imputed crime.*

I shall make no comments on the foregoing statement, but submit to you the simple facts of the case.

Very respectfully,

J. M——.

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[No. 4.]

*Certificate of Vestry of "All Faith Parish."*

We the undersigned, members of the Vestry of All Faith Parish, do, unhesitatingly, express our confident belief, that the statement made by Mr. George Thomas, in relation to a conversation which took place between him and the Rev. Norris M. Jones, and which has been denied by said Jones is strictly true. Our long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. George Thomas, his known high character, and well established reputation for integrity, probity and honor, positively forbid any other conclusion.

Given under our hand, this 21st of September, 1834.

JNO. H. SOTHORON,  
WM. C. BARNES,  
JOSEPH F. SHAW,  
GEORGE G. ASHCOM,  
SAMUEL KEECH,  
ROBERT DAVIS,  
JOHN T. HAWKINS,  
JAMES. E. KILGOUR.

## [No. 5.]

He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor : but he that seeketh mischief it shall come unto him.—Prov. xi. 27.

*Letter of Mr. George Slye.*

February 28th, 1835.

*Dear Sir*—In answer to your request, wishing to be informed as to the conduct of the Rev. Norris M. Jones, during the time that he remained with us as a boarder, and also as to all the circumstances connected with the loss of my money, I state as follows:—That during the first year he was with me I discovered nothing worthy of particular notice; but before the expiration of the second year, his character began to develop itself. He evinced a gossiping disposition, professed to know every family in his parish for generations back, and even to be informed as to their private affairs, and would criticise and ridicule those whose kindness and hospitality he frequently enjoyed. The ladies of his parish seemed to occupy much of his thoughts. His vanity was such, that he pretended to believe he could marry almost any lady of his acquaintance; that some were actually in love with him. On one occasion, the Rev. Norris M. Jones informed me that during the time his brother Clement Jones boarded with the Rev. Richard H. B. Mitchell, he, the said Mitchell, was in the habit of entering, during the absence of his brother Clement from home, a closet, by means of a false key, in which his brother kept his papers and wine, and reading his private papers and drinking his wine. His propensity to embroil families was strong; as an evidence, he caused a coolness between Mrs. Slye and her only sister, Mrs. Billingsley, which continued for several months, and was near terminating in a permanent rupture between them, (see certificate of Chapman Billingsley.) On one occasion, after preaching in the forenoon at All Faith Church, he was drunk at my house, and received the sacrament a few days after at

said church; this was at the time Bishop Stone first visited our parish. A short time after receiving the sacrament, he remarked to Mrs. Slye and myself, that he was near feigning himself sick at the time he was about to receive the sacrament; and that he would not have minded it so much, had not Mrs. Slye and myself been présent.

I will now detail the circumstances connected with the loss of my money. On the 20th of January, 1831, a letter was handed me by the Rev. Norris M. Jones, dated St. Inigoes, January 10th, and post marked Great Mill, purporting to be written by a gentleman who signed himself my friend, and who said he had in his hands 936 dollars, deposited with him by a deceased gentleman, to be paid over to me as executor of Col. Thomas Barber, deceased. The said letter was under an envelope, directed, Mr. Jones, Charlotte Hall, and not the Rev. Norris M. Jones; and it seems strange to me, at this time, that the Rev. Norris M. Jones should have thought a letter directed to Mr. Jones, was intended for him, for there are several Jones' living in the district. After reading said letter, I remarked to Mr. Jones that as the day appointed for me to be at the Great Mill had passed, it was unnecessary for me to go down. Mr. Jones replied that I had better go, for it was probable the letter writer would hear of my being there, and would meet me. I did go down, and remained for several days, but heard nothing of my friend. When I returned home, Jones asked me what luck. I told him I heard nothing of it from any one. Jones then said I would receive another letter from the same person. About two or three weeks after, a second letter was handed me, by the same Rev. Norris M. Jones, dated St. Inigoes, February, 8th, 1831, and post marked Great Mill, signed, "A Friend," and under an envelope, directed Mr. Jones, Charlotte Hall. I went down, and was there the day and hour appointed, but as before, heard nothing of my friend. I had to ride 32 miles, the distance from my house to the Great

Mill. I have a certificate from the Post master at the Great Mill, stating that there was no letter mailed there for Charlotte Hall, between the 1st of December, 1830, and the 22d Februry, 1831—I have also the certificate of the Post master at Charlotte Hall, that no letters were received at that office from the Great Mill, between the 1st December, 1830, and 22d February, 1831, which certificates I send you. During the years '30 and '31, I collected a large amount of money due the estate of Col. Barber, father to my wife, which as collected was deposited in a portable writing desk, kept in a locked room. The Revd. Norris M. Jones, then boarding with me, professed to take great interest in my business, particularly as to the administration of Col. Barber's estate; would frequently enquire as to my collections, place of deposit, &c. He expressed fears as to the safety of the money I collected, and said if I were not cautious my negroes would rob me. About the 1st of March, 1831, I had in said desk \$460 51, with notes of hand and other valuable papers. About that time, one day whilst we were at dinner, a small servant brought the desk in, broken open, and robbed of the money, the notes and papers being left, and said he found it at the bottom of the garden, where he had been at work. It was not known to any one, except the Rev. Norris M. Jones, my wife, myself, and perpaps, a small negro girl, where my money was kept. Not a servant on the land, except said girl, and I am not sure she did, knew that there was a cent of money in the house at that time; nor did they know the place of deposit. The said Jones left my house the morning of the day on which the desk was found, and did not return until the evening of the next day. He said that on his way home he called by Charlotte Hall, and was at Mr. Miltimores—Jones, then, as he informed me, first heard of my loss, and said that when it was mentioned, Miss Amelia Kilgour remarked that she did not believe it, for where was George Slye

to get so much money from, which remark Miss Amelia Kilgour denies having made.

The day before Mr. Jones left home, and the day before the desk was found, the said Jones went with a little servant to said locked room to draw some cider, saying that he would go with her to keep her lips out of the mug, a thing never thought of before. A short time after, he returned from the locked room with said girl, it was discovered that the barrel was leaking, and he, Jones, returned alone to stop it. Mr. Jones had never been in said room before, not even to keep the lips of a servant out of a mug of cider, although he frequently drank cider from the same barrel, drawn by the same servant. The little girl Phillis who went with Mr. Jones to draw cider, being the only servant ever permitted to go alone to the locked room, was suspected of having some knowledge of the money. When first interrogated, she declared that she knew nothing of the money; but after some severe threats she acknowledged that she had taken the desk from the locked room at the request of negro Charity, a house servant. Phillis however made different statements at different times—Charity was sold on the statement of Phillis, who declared soon after that she knew nothing of the money, and was induced by the fear of punishment to accuse Charity. After receiving the money for Charity, I said in the presence of Mr. Jones that I did not know what to do with it; that the money I had lost was under double lock, and that was stolen from me. Mr. Jones said that he was sure that he could keep it, that he never lost money, and if I thought proper he would keep it for me. I thanked him, and handed him the money, and continued from that day to deposite with him money as I collected it, and to the amount of \$665. Some time between the 1st and 10th of April, 1831, Mr. Jones left my house on a visit to the Patuxent, as he said; upon his return, the next day, he came to the room in which Mrs. Slye and myself were sitting, and said he called by Samuel Keech's, who



paid him ten dollars, and that he would go and put it away with our money in his library, the place in which he said he kept it. In a short time he called me to an adjoining room; when I went, he was standing with a book open in his hand, in which there was a one dollar note, and observed it was all that was left of our money. I said I did not understand him—he replied that some one had taken our money. Mrs. Slye and myself evinced some concern at the loss, and I said there was some wrong going on. He said I ought to have my servants up and examine them, and advised me to sell some of them, or they would ruin us, and we should be found some day murdered in our bed; he further remarked that whoever got the last money I had lost, got the first, and if we would say nothing about the last loss, he, Norris M. Jones, would make both losses good. Mr. Jones about this time owed me 1645 dollars, if we include the money taken from my desk and the money deposited with him for safe keeping, which sums as before stated he promised to make good—and also, the amount of my account for board, horse, &c. By payments made at sundry times, the sum was reduced to 950 dollars. A week or two after he was married he came to my house with his wife and stayed all night. In the morning before he came out of his bed room, feeling somewhat anxious about the money he promised me, and wishing to come to a settlement with him, I brought pen, ink and paper into the sitting room and put them upon the table. When Jones came into the room he took a seat near the table where the pen, ink and paper were, and said he expected to receive money shortly and would be able to let me have a part of the money promised my son who was named after him. I said never mind my son, I will endeavor to provide for him as well as I can with my other children; all I ask of you is to make good your promise to make good my loss. Without a word he drew three notes for value received, payable in 1, 2 and 3 years, amounting to 950 dollars—

the balance due me as before stated. After executing the notes, he remarked that he thought it probable he should be able to pay the entire amount before the first note became due.

It will be well to remark that during the times I was absent from home, in pursuance of the request contained in said letters, Mrs. Slye had company, and their lodging room was so situated with regard to the aforesaid locked room that it could not have been safely entered without some of the company hearing it. The first sum of money that I lost was taken about three weeks from the receipt of the last of the aforesaid letters, and the money which I deposited with the Rev. Norris M. Jones, disappeared, as I was informed by him, about three weeks thereafter. I have no hesitation in declaring, that I confidently believe that all the money I lost was taken by the writer of the aforesaid letters, and that the first sum would have been taken long before it was, had an opportunity offered.

In conclusion, I must take leave to remark that the Rev. Norris M. Jones has endeavoured to impeach my veracity, by exhibiting a certificate of good character, &c. written and signed by me as sworn Vestryman and Church Warden. At the time the certificate purports to have been signed, I was neither a Vestryman nor Church Warden, as will appear by reference to the register of All-Faith Church, and I could not have done an act so foreign from truth. I well recollect having refused Jones a certificate as often as three times, and if I ever signed one, it has escaped my recollection.

Yours, &c.

GEORGE SLYE.

*Certificate of Chapman Billingsley.*

I do hereby certify (as my firm belief,) that the difference spoken of in Mr. Slye's certificate to Mr. Thomas, between Mrs. Billingsley and Mrs. Slye, was occasioned by the Rev. Norris M. Jones.

CHAPMAN BILLINGSLEY.

March 2d, 1835.

[No. 6.]

*Certificate of the Post-Master at Great Mills.*

GREAT MILLS, Feb. 1, 1833.

*Dear Sir*—I received yours of the 21st January, requesting to be informed if any letters were mailed at this office for Charlotte Hall, from the first of December to the twenty-second of February, 1831. On examination of the account of mails sent, I find no letter or letters were mailed between the above-mentioned dates, and that no letters were mailed at the Great Mills for Charlotte Hall nearer the time, than one on the 25th Nov. 1830, and one on the 28th May, 1831.

Yours, respectfully,

HENRY N. KIRK.

*To Geo. Slye, Esq.**State of Maryland, St. Mary's county, to wit :*

On this third day of March, 1835, personally appears Henry N. Kirk, before the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for the county and state aforesaid, who after being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, says that the facts stated in the within letter are just and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn before

CHARLES C. EGERTON.

[No. 7.]

*Certificate of the Post-Master at Charlotte-Hall.*

I hereby certify that there was no letter received at the Post Office at Charlotte Hall, Saint Mary's county, Maryland, at which I was deputy post master, and regularly in attendance, purporting to be mailed at the Great Mills, in the county and state aforesaid, between the dates of the 1st day of December, 1830, and the 22d of Feb. 1831.

Given under my hand this 17th day of March, 1835.

THOS. C. REEVES.

## [No. 8.]

*Certificate of Messrs. Ashcom, Hawkins, Kilgour, and Sothoron, Vestrymen of "All Faith Parish"*

We the undersigned, do hereby certify, that we were at Major John T. Hawkins', with Mr George Thomas, a few days after the meeting held by the Vestry of All Faith Parish, for the purpose of enquiring into certain rumors affecting the character of the Rev. Norris M. Jones. On that day the conversation turned on matters disclosed at the meeting. When Mr. Thomas heard that the Rev. Norris M. Jones had admitted that he had made a slanderous communication to Mr. Miltemore, and assigned Dr. William B. Lock as his author, he expressed great astonishment, and said that such conduct on the part of Mr. Jones, to say the least of it, was unkind and illiberal towards Dr. Lock; for to his certain knowledge, he had said he heard it from one other person. Mr. Thomas then repeated what Mr. Jones had told him, and it was as follows:—During a ride from the church above mentioned, 1st Jan. 1833, Mr. Jones observed, that he had been told by a gentleman, once a Vestryman of All Faith Parish, now dead, that he had seen a letter written to a gentleman, once the Rector of All Faith Parish, who is also dead, cautioning him against a certain man of the neighborhood who had ruined his daughter; and that he believed the letter writer was a Mr. W.—; he, Mr. Thomas, after reflection, guessed Joshua Estep as the Vestryman, and that he, Jones, said yes, he was: after further reflection, he guessed the Rev. Neale H. Shaw, as the one who had received the letter, and Jones said yes, he was—That Mr. Thomas commented freely on the conduct of Mr. Jones, both as regarded the manner he, Mr. Jones, expressed himself touching said matter, before the Vestry and the communication to Mr. M——. Mr. Thomas distinctly said that such a communication was well calculated to cause a permanent difference

between neighbors, and that such conduct was unchristian-like, and unbecoming a minister of the gospel; that he had felt disposed to sustain Mr. Jones until his guilt was proved; that now he had evidence of his unfitness for the ministry, (or language to that effect,) and was done with him; that he could not consent to subscribe to Mr. Jones again as Rector of All Faith Church.

Mr Thomas further remarked, that he made the communication before stated, to us as Vestrymen, and not to be used unless for purposes of justice; that if it should become necessary for the purposes of justice, he was prepared at any time to swear to the truth of his statement made to us; that he did not wish to appear as Mr. Jones' accuser; that he felt constrained by the force of circumstances to divulge the conversation with Jones; that he had never before mentioned it to any one, and should not have mentioned it then, except to correct an erroneous impression under which some of them seemed to labour; that he would like for some one of them to endeavor to ascertain from Jones whether or not he had heard the said slander from any one except Dr. Lock. The above was the language used by Mr. Thomas, to the best of our recollection.

Given under our hands, this 18th February, 1835.

GEORGE G. ASHCOM, Vestrymen.

JOHN T. HAWKINS, do.

JAS E. KILGOUR, do.

(See also No. 16.) JNO. H. SOTHORON, do.

### [No. 9.]

An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor; but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.—PROV. xi. 9.

*Certificate of Rev. Francis H. L. Laird.*

I do hereby certify that the Rev. N. M. Jones said to me, on the 25th of Sept. 1831, that the Rev. R. H. B. Mitchell was



unfit to remain in the Standing Committee, and that he was determined to have him removed. Upon my inquiring his objections to Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Jones stated that Mr. M. was shamefully deficient in Theological literature, and could not be engaged in a conversation on any Theological subject; that he, Mr. M., was a man of egregious vanity, which had frequently led him to boast of his high descent, and that he had refused to pay twenty-five cents, which was his proportion of a porter's charge for carrying three trunks belonging to the Rev. Messrs. C. F. Jones, R. H. B. Mitchell and N. M. Jones, from John Gibson's, Esqr. of Baltimore, to the wharf of the steam boat Patuxent, and that he, N. M. Jones, had paid the whole seventy-five cents and had not been refunded by his brother or Mr. Mitchell—That on the above date, while we were on our way to his marriage, Mr. N. M. Jones said that he was then, by his marriage to Mrs. E. A. Sothoron, about to achieve a splendid triumph over her relatives, the Briscoe's. I then expressed my hope that he was impelled by love and not by anger to marry her, to which he replied that he loved the old lady, but that he disliked to be conquered by any person. He then changed the subject of conversation. That Mr. Jones, while we were walking in Judge Dorsey's garden, on the 22d of June, 1833, and conversing on the subject of Mr. W——'s letter to the Rev. N. H. Shaw, informed me that he had seen that letter, and that Mr. W. had employed language in it, which would have been sufficiently severe against Mr. M., if he, Mr. M., had seduced both his wife and daughter. I had not seen the letter, and understood Mr. Jones to assert his belief that Mr. M. had seduced Mr. W's daughter.

FRANCIS H. L. LAIRD.

Rector of Trinity Church, Charles Co. Md.

*Parsonage, T. P. Sept. 17th, 1834.*

[No. 10.]

*Letter of the Rev. R. Mitchell.*

Chaplico, 2d March, 1835.

*My dear Sir*—You desire to know whether I called upon the Rev. N. M. Jones, for the purpose of ascertaining whether he had relinquished all expectation of recovering the Rectorship of All Faith Parish. He stated that he had received a communication from the Vestry, inviting him to the Rectorship, but that under existing circumstances, he was unwilling to accept at this time, although he had rather serve in that parish than in any other that might be able to give him five times the amount of salary. In consequence of this conversation with Mr. Jones, I declined the call to the parish which the Vestry had made, believing that he still expected to return to the Rectorship, and was unwilling he should consider me an obstacle.

With esteem and regard, I am dear sir,

R. MITCHELL.

[No. 11.]

*Certificate of Dr. Joseph F. Shaw.*

I hereby certify, that on Easter Monday, of the year 1833, I shewed Mr. N. M. Jones, Mr. W's letter to my father, which was said to be the foundation of a report implicating the character of Mr. M—— and one of Mr. W——'s daughters. Mr. Jones read the letter, and declared that there was no such allusion contained therein—which is nothing more than the truth, for there is no allusion in the letter which can possibly be tortured into a foundation for such a report.

JOSEPH F. SHAW.

N. B. The letter can be seen by any person who wishes;

[No. 12.]

*Letter of Norris M. Jones to Dr. Briscoe.*

SAVONA, 22d August, 1834.

Sir,—You came to my house last Friday, and desired me to close my children's account, by note, stating that you could pass away the note as cash to the person who holds your negro. Supposing you were speaking the truth about passing away the note, and as you said it would oblige you, I consented to give it; although I was not bound to pay those accounts until the assets came into my hands. Is there another man in the country who would thus have assumed the debts of others for the purpose of serving you? None. And how has my kindness been repaid? By your going the same day and suing me. On your conduct, sir, I make no reflections; but leave you to make them yourself. As soon as I could have collected the money you should have been paid; but since you have appealed to the law, the law must take its course. Perhaps you were not aware that in a court of chancery a note that is on compound interest, is forfeited as illegal. In the note given you on Friday, a prior note of mine is included, in which the interest is calculated to the 28th of June; and as the last note calls for interest, it is on compound interest, and therefore illegal, and you cannot recover it. I have no objection to paying any just claim you have upon me; but as I said, since you have referred the matter to the law, you must abide by its judgment; for I assure you, I shall leave nothing undone, that the law enables me to do. My advice to you is, immediately to withdraw the suit, and what is due you I will pay when I collect the money, which will be long before you can have any judicial decision on the subject—before you can get the matter decided judically, your negro will be sold.

Very respectfully,

NORRIS M. JONES.

*Dr. Charles Ll. Briscoe.*

## [No. 13.]

*Letter of Dr. Briscoe to Geo. Thomas.*

*Dear Sir*,—When I saw you last you requested me to furnish you with a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Revd. N. M. Jones, in relation to a pecuniary transaction that had taken place between him and myself. I regret that until now I have been unable to comply with your request. In relation to the enclosed letter, of which you are free to make what use you please, I have merely to remark, that not one of its statements has the slightest foundation in truth, except that which charges me with instituting suit against its author. And to the adoption of that disagreeable measure I was compelled by his repeated violations of promises of payment of claims against his step-children and himself, on the punctual performance of which I had vainly relied for the liquidation of a claim against me, for which my word was pledged and my property under execution. You will observe that his letter is dated the 22d August instead of the 22d July, the true date. How he committed this inadvertence I cannot say.

With esteem, your obt. servt.

CHARLES LL. BRISCOE.

## [No. 14.]

*Letter of Dr. Joseph F. Shaw to Mr. George Thomas.*

November 1st, 1834.

*Dear Sir*—In reply to your request to state to you the course of conduct pursued by the Rev. Norris M. Jones towards my father, and the cause of the difference between him and our family : Although it is painful to remember, I will as briefly and correctly inform you as my present recollection will enable me to do.

Mr. Jones was elected rector of All-Faith Parish, in the sum-

mer of 1829, and though it may be unnecessary to mention it, I was myself a warm advocate and supporter of his election, and used all my influence to effect it. My father was then residing in the parish, and did not desire the appointment. From that time till the winter of 1830 there was nothing remarkable in his conduct, except that he seldom visited and never, I believe, extended to him, my father, those courtesies which might have been expected between ministers of the gospel situated as they were towards each other. Whether he felt hurt by this apparent slight I know not—I never heard him complain; on the contrary, he ever spoke of Mr. Jones affectionately, and with praise and hope for his usefulness in the parish. Sometime in the month of February, 1830, Mr. Jones preached a sermon in the school room at Charlotte Hall, against slander. from St. John, 8th chapter, part of his text being, “They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the *very act*,” the last words of which he laid great stress upon and very frequently repeated. After sermon my father, Mr. M. and myself were conversing about the sermon, and my father observed “that he was sorry Mr. Jones had selected that text to preach his sermon from, that there were many others as appropriate, and that such sentences were not well suited to a young minister and such a congregation.” Calculated rather to do harm than good, and mentioned an instance in which he thought he had done himself an injury in the estimation of his parishioners, (alluding to some who had expressed their disgust, in very strong language to him.) I know that these remarks did not arise from ill will towards Mr. Jones, and that my father had in them no sinister motive—they may have been repeated again but I am not certain they were. A few days after this a poor woman, whom I was attending, desired the services of the church. Mr Jones was not then ordained—my father was her choice and attended. The same evening we called to see Mr. Jones at Mr. Slye’s, and pleasantly spent the



evening with him and his brother. The sermon, I am sure, was forgotten, for my father observed to me as we were riding home, that he wished he had thought of it, that he might have said something to Mr. Jones on the subject. Shortly after this visit Mr. Jones sends a short note to my father forbidding him to perform any parochial duties in the parish whatever, on pain of being reported to the bishop, and the next Sunday in course preaches the same (as he asserts) sermon, and afterwards, with great manifest passion, abused in the harshest terms, those who had criticised it.

As soon as I heard of this, I went to see Mr. Jones for the purpose of obtaining the sermon, and at the same time to know if his remarks from the pulpit alluded to me, because I had spoken freely of the doctrine which I thought the sermon included. Being taught always to venerate the truth, it was a new idea to me that it was evil or slander to tell it, and therefore wished to read the sermon, that I might correct any erroneous impression I might have received. Mr. Jones refused to lend it, but told me I might read it in his room, as he never lent his sermons out. He then told me he had no allusion to me in his remarks whatever, but that he meant my father, the Rev. Neale H. Shaw, that he believed him actuated by envy, hatred and malice, and all the bad feelings of the *Pharisee*. That he had calumniated him for the purpose of injuring his usefulness, and ousting him from the parish, and that his performing parochial duties was for the same purpose.

On my return home, I mentioned the result of my interview with Mr. Jones to my father. He was surprised and deeply hurt. He had spent nearly his three-score years and ten in close contact with the world, with unspotted character, and more than twenty, in active service as a minister of Christ. And then, in his old age, to be held up by a younger brother in the ministry, and a stranger in the parish, from the sacred desk, and before a congregation to whom he had often minis-

tered, as an aged hypocrite, old in iniquity and vice, (his words) was an insult and injury which would require a super-human effort to forgive or forget. It was the injury which first separated us as a family from Mr. Jones, and forced upon us the conviction that he was not under the influence of a good spirit.

We were commanded not violently to resent it, but to let him alone, as his future conduct would shew what he was. How different this conduct of Mr. Jones from that pointed out by that good book, whose precepts should be a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." St. Paul tells him, "Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father"—Our Saviour says, "if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between *him* and *thee alone*; if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother—but if he will not hear thee, then take with thee two or three more, that in the mouths of two or three witnesses, every word may be established; and if he neglect to hear them, then tell it to the church."

Solomon in his wisdom advises, "to admonish a friend, for many times it is a slander; and believe not every tale, there is one that slippeth in his speech, but not from his heart; and who is he that hath not offended with his tongue." "Admonish thy neighbor before thou threaten him," &c.

In Leviticus, God himself commands, "thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face *of the old man, and fear thy God, I am the Lord.*"

They had an interview sometime after this, and my father declared to Mr. Jones that nothing, which he had said or done, proceeded from any ill will or wish to injure him; that he had spoken of his sermon as he thought, and ever should think; and repeated his observations. After this, although he did not forget, yet he seems in some measure to have forgiven, as he contributed to his support as Rector, after his election. Mr. Jones still continued to preach occasionally his before men-

tioned slander sermon, but so altered in tone, manner and emphasis, that I should not have known it unless for the text; for the express purpose, as he declared to some of his friends, to stop the Shaws' mouths. Previous to the meeting of the Convention in June, 1831, Mr. Jones called to see my father to get a certificate to the bishop, necessary to obtain full orders. My father was then in a very feeble state of health, and at times very excitable—When Mr. Jones was about to take leave, he said, "Well, Mr. Shaw, the reasons you will not give me a certificate are, that I have not been to see you often enough, and Mr. M. is a vestry man." My father looked wild with astonishment, and said, "don't go out of my house with a lie in your mouth, don't tell that lie—I call you to bear witness, Mrs. Slye, that I gave no such reasons—I said I am too weak to write, and if I were not, I know nothing to recommend him as a minister." Mr. Jones carelessly observed, that it was of no consequence to him, he had merely asked it by way of compliment.

Before Mr. Jones' return from the convention, my father was consigned to the grave. Mr. Jones called to see the family and informed them that he intended to preach another funeral sermon, and at the same time took the opportunity to insult their feelings. After this, I called to see the Rev. gentleman, and requested him not to preach the sermon, as that duty had been performed by the Rev. Mr. Laird in his absence.

What I have here stated is strictly true, and no news to Mr. Jones. I feel that I am but doing justice to my father's memory, to his family, and myself, as it was known that there was a difference between them and Mr. Jones, to let the cause of that difference be known.

With respect, I remain,

Your friend and obedt. serv't.

JOSEPH F. SHAW.

To Mr. George Thoms; Patuxent.

[No. 15.]

*Certificate of George G. Ashcom.*

I do hereby certify, that the intimation in the pamphlet of the Rev. Norris M. Jones, with respect to the amount of the annual subscription of Mr. George Thomas for the support of said Jones, as Rector of All Faith Church is incorrect.

GEORGE G. ASHCOM,

Vestryman.

[No. 16.]

*Letter of Col. Sothoron.*

House of Delegates, March 19th, 1835.

*Dear Sir*—Yours of this morning is received, in answer I have to say, I well recollect that shortly after the meeting of the Vestry of All Faith Parish, at which it was said, the Rev. Norris M. Jones had stated that he was informed a certain Mr. M. had seduced the daughter of Mr. W——, by Dr. Locke, *and no one else*. You replied that Mr. Jones had not stated the truth, for he had before informed you that he had received that information from Mr. J. Estep. Soon after this I had a conversation with the Rev. N. M. Jones on the subject, and I asked him the direct question whether he had ever stated to any individual that he had received the above information, in relation to Mr. M. from any other person than Dr. Locke? His words in reply, I do not recollect, but he left me under the conviction that he admitted he had received it from another or others. I afterwards informed you upon this authority, that I knew of my own knowledge your statement to be correct.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN H. SOTHORON.

To GEO. THOMAS, Esq.



That Norris M. Jones pays no regard to the truth whenever he may deem it expedient to utter a falsehood, will be still more evident to the reader by the perusal of the following certificates:

Firstly—Those given by Messrs. Wm. H. Sothoron and John H. Sothoron—which prove that he propagated a false charge against the latter.

Secondly—That given by Mr. Chas. C. Egerton, and the annexed false receipt—which convict him of the design to deceive his parishoners by false representations, and the deliberate preparation and delivery of a writing for so vile a purpose.

And, Thirdly—The certificates of Messrs. Chas. C. Egerton and Joseph F. Shaw—which show that he deliberately denied to Mr. Egerton that he had received information *from either of these persons*, of whom Mr. Shaw was one, when in fact his application to Mr. Egerton was prompted by the information which he had received from Mr. Shaw.

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*Certificate of Wm. H. Sothoron.*

I do certify, that the Rev. Norris M. Jones told me some time in August last, that John H. Sothoron was the only one of the vestry of All Faith Parish who had acted like a man: that he, John H. Sothoron, had declared, that he would ride through the parish with a cow skin in his hand and put it to rights.

WM. H. SOTHORON.

October 15th, 1834.

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*Certificate of John H. Sothoron.*

A report became current in Charlotte Hall District last fall, that I had stated that I would take a cow hide in my hand and ride through the district for the purpose of putting the people



to rights. Mr. N. M. Jones visited me during its currency, and expressed his regret that such a report had obtained circulation and was stated to rest on his authority, adding that he never had made or authorised any such statement. I have only to add the report was totally false, as I have before publicly proclaimed it to be.

JOHN H. SOTHORON.

Annapolis, March 17th, 1834.

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*Certificate of Charles C. Egerton.*

I hereby certify, that on the fourth day of December, 1832, the Rev. Norris M. Jones, late rector of All-Faith Parish, in which I at that time was vestryman, called to see me, and that after being informed by me that there were many of the parishoners who had refused to subscribe any thing for his support, and others who had and would reduce their subscriptions, he asked me how much *I* would give, naming the sum of five dollars—to which enquiry, I replied : Mr. Jones, were I able I would give more ; he immediately proposed that I should sign fifteen dollars, that he would give me a receipt for ten dollars, that he wished to match some of those fellows : to which proposition, I without reflection replied, very well sir, and he prepared and handed me the receipt, which I now hold : not having the subscription list at hand : I had time for reflection, when I came to the conclusion that as sworn officer of the church I could not practice any deception upon the parishoners ; consequently I did not then subscribe, nor have I since, for his support.

Given under my hand this 2d day of Feb. 1835.

CHARLES C. EGERTON.

*False Receipt.*

Received of Charles C. Egerton, 10 dollars on his account of his subscription towards my salary, for the year ending September 15th, 1833.

NORRIS M. JONES,

December 4th, 1832.

Rector of All-Faith Parish.

*Certificate of Chas. C. Egerton.*

I hereby certify, that sometime within the last twelve months the Rev. Norris M. Jones called on me in the presence of Mr. William C. Barnes, for the contents of a certain instrument of writing, purporting to be a copy of the evidence of Mr. George Slye against him, which was exhibited by me to three gentlemen in my room, namely, Dr. Jos. F. Shaw, Mr. James Miltemore, and Mr. William C. Barnes. Concluding that Mr. Barnes must have been his author, I intimated as much, and told Mr. Jones to go to his author for the desired information. Mr. Barnes immediately demanded of Mr. Jones to do him the justice to say that he had not been his author, which demand Mr. Jones instantly complied with.

Mr. Jones then voluntarily remarked that he had heard it, but from *neither of the three gentlemen present* at the time of the exhibition of the aforesaid instrument; two days after which call, I asked Dr. Jos. F. Shaw if he had ever mentioned the circumstance to any person, and to whom, when he informed me he had, and that to Mr. Jones himself.

Given under my hand this 11th day of Oct. 1834.

CHARLES C. EGERTON.

*Certificate of Joseph F. Shaw.*

I hereby certify, that on Easter Monday of the year 1833, I did in the course of a conversation I had with the Rev. Mr. Jones, inform him that there were other charges against him than what he had spoken of, and which other charges I had heard read, and that they were in the possession of Mr. Egerton. I did not mention what they were, though he earnestly solicited me to do so. Mr. Jones and myself were not on terms of either friendship or intimacy; but considering that the charges above alluded to were intended for the public eye, I did not deem the communication as in any manner violating con-

fidence—And I also certify that I was one of the three persons before whom the above mentioned charges were read.

J. F. SHAW.

There is a great deal of talk about the future of the world.

It is a very interesting subject, and one that we should all be interested in.

There are many different opinions about it, and it is a very complex subject.

Some people think that the world is going to be a better place in the future.

Others think that it is going to be a worse place.

It is a very difficult question to answer, and it is one that we should all be interested in.

There are many different factors that will influence the future of the world.

Some of these factors are the environment, the economy, and the population.

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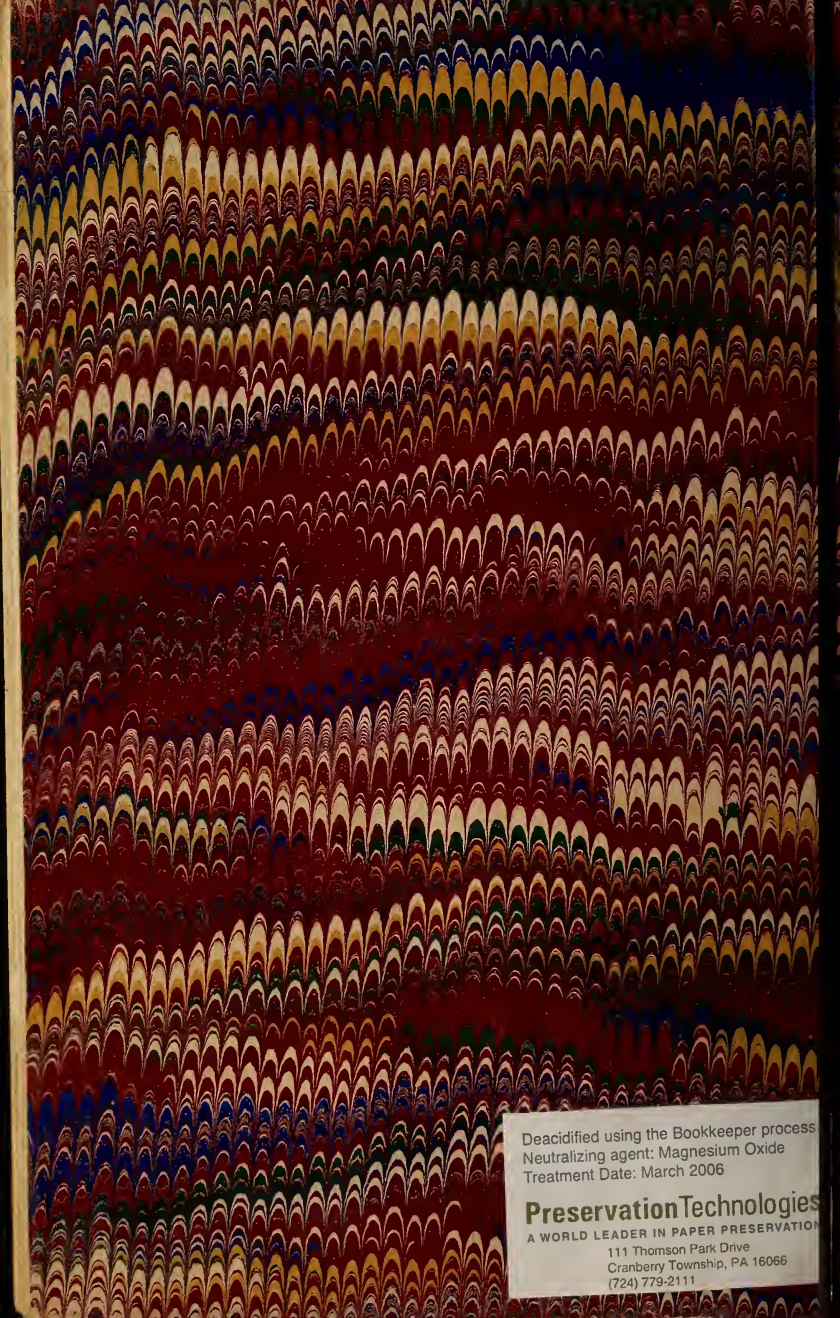












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Treatment Date: March 2006

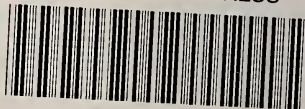
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